

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07260 261855Z

73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CCO-00 SSO-00

SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /153 W

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R 261830Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8156

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CI, MX

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTITUDES RE CHILEAN PROBLEM

1. FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA DISCUSSED WITH ME AT LENGTH MEXICAN ATTITUDES AND HIS PERSONAL VIEWS TOWARDS CHILEAN SITUATION. RABASA SAID THAT WHILE ADMITTING ALLENDE WAS A POOR ADMINISTRATOR AND HAD LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, HE HAD NEVER-THELESS BEEN A GREAT PATRIOT AND A MAN WHO SINCERELY WISHED TO END THE OLIGARCHY WHICH HAD CONTROLLED CHILE AND EFFECT A FAIRER DIVISION OF RESOURCES. RABASA SAID IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT ALLENDE HAD BEEN MURDERED BECAUSE NOW HE WOULD BE A MARTYR. RABASA THOUGHT THAT OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE HAD BEEN A BOON TO FIDEL CASTRO BECAUSE LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA WOULD NOW CONCLUDE THAT REVOLUTION WAS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING ABOUT THEIR OBJECTIVES. THE BALLOT BOX AS A MEANS OF COMING TO POWER WOULD BE DISCREDITED. RABASA ADDED THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD BEEN MOST DISTURBED OVER CHILEAN DEVELOPMENTS.

2. WITH REGARD TO MEXICAN REACTION, RABASA SAID HE COULD TELL ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT ECHEVERRIA HAD REACHED NO DECISION ON ATTITUDE TO ADOPT. HE SAID THAT OF COURSE ESTRADA DOCTRINE WOULD APPLY BUT THAT THERE WERE "DIFFERENT DEGREES" IN ITS APPLICATION. HE  
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 07260 261855Z

SAID THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE UNDER THE ESTRADA DOCTRINE BUT THAT PRESIDENT WOULD DECIDE WHICH

OF THREE COURSES TO ADOPT: TO WITHDRAW THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC MISSION, TO LEAVE A GROUP UNDER A CHARGE OR TO RETURN THE AMBASSADOR. RABASA OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT THAT THE LAST COURSE OF ACTION WAS THE MOST UNLIKELY.

3. CONCERNING THE GRANTING OF ASYLUM, RABASA SAID HE HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT ECHEVERRIA GRANT ASYLUM TO CHILEAN POLITICAL REFUGEES (HE DID NOT MENTION THIRD COUNTRY REFUGEES). RABASA SAID THIS WAS IN ACCORD WITH MEXICO'S TRADITIONAL POLICY ON ASYLUM AND NO OTHER COURSE WAS POSSIBLE. HE SAID CHILEAN JUNTA HAD DONE MEXICANS A FAVOR IN ONE WAY BY BLOCKADING THEIR EMBASSY SO THAT ADDITIONAL ASYLEES COULD NOT ENTER. ON THE OTHER HAND HE SAID THIS WAS ALSO POLITICALLY IRKSOME. RABASA SAID LAST PLANELOAD OF REFUGEES SO FAR AS HE KNEW WOULD ARRIVE HERE ON SEPTEMBER 26 AND THAT TOTAL NUMBER AMOUNTED TO SEVERAL HUNDREDS BUT HE DID NOT HAVE EXACT FIGURES YET.

4. RABASA SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT PEOPLE SEEMED TO ASSUME US COMPLICITY BECAUSE HE STATED THAT HE AND ECHEVERRIA BELIEVED STATEMENTS MADE BY US DENYING ANY PRIOR INVOLVEMENT. HOWEVER HE REPEATED THAT IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVINCE PEOPLE ACCORDINGLY. I REFERRED TO EXCELLENT KUBISCH STATEMENT LAST WEEK AND SAID THIS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT. RABASA REPEATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME EARLIER THAT OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE FROM US VIEWPOINT AND THAT AN EVENTUAL DEFEAT OF ALLENDE AT THE POLLS WOULD BE FAR MORE DESIRABLE FOR US. I AGREED WITH THIS VIEWPOINT BUT POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD HARDLY BEEN IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE EVENTS SINCE WE HAD FOLLOWED A STRICTLY HANDS-OFF POLICY.

5. I MENTIONED MRS.. ALLENDE'S STATEMENTS HERE SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN RATHER INFLAMMATORY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT SHE WOULD NOT CONTINUE THIS LINE AFTER HER RETURN FROM CUBA BUT SAID MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WAS PERMITTING HER FULL FREEDOMS HERE. HE REITERATED THAT CLOSE RELATIONSHIP HAD EXISTED PERSONALLY BETWEEN THE ALLENDES AND THE ECHEVERRIAS.

6. IN CLOSING RABASA ASSERTED THAT IT WAS TOO BAD ALLENDE HAD NOT FOLLOWED ECHEVERRIAS ADVICE THAT YOU COULD NOT GOVERN WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF MANAGERIAL CLASS. HE SAID ALLENDE HAD IGNORED THIS  
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 07260 261855Z

WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS. PARENTHETICALLY I THOUGHT THIS REMARK A TRIFLE CURIOUS IN VIEW OF THE TROUBLES WHICH ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF IS NOW HAVING WITH BUSINESS GROUPS. IN ANY EVENT I BELIEVE FOREGOING REPRESENTS A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF MEXICAN GOVERNMENT GENERALLY FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ALLENDE THOUGH THE REALIZATION LIKEWISE EXISTS THAT LUIS ECHEVERRIA CANNOT TURN THE CLOCK BACK IN CHILE. RABASA CONCLUDED REMARKING THAT CERTAINLY EVENTUALLY ALL GOVERNMENTS EXCEPT THE COMMUNIST BLOCK WOULD RECOGNIZE AND DO BUSINESS WITH THE CHILEAN JUNTA.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MEXICO07260  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** MEXICO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973097/aaaaafdt.tel  
**Line Count:** 115  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTITUDES RE CHILEAN PROBLEM  
**TAGS:** PINT, CI, MX  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC SANTIAGO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005